

DP-302561

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-16, 19, 20, 24-29, and 31 are pending in the present application. Claims 15, 20 and 25-29 are allowed, with Claim 19 objected to. Claims 1, 16, and 24 have been amended and Claim 32 has been added, leaving Claims 1, 4 - 14, 16, 19, 24, 31 and 32 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 16, and 24, as well as for new Claim 32, can at least be found in Claims 1 - 4 as originally filed. These claims have merely been amended to further clarify that the amount of alkaline earth oxide component is based upon the weight of the outer layer and not on the weight of the entire catalyst. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Telephone Conference with the Examiner

On February 6, 2004, the undersigned had a telephone conference with Examiner Johnson. During the conference, Applicants prior remarks and the Advisory Action. It has been Applicants position that the amount of alkaline earth oxide component was based upon the total amount of outer layer and not the total amount of the catalyst. Although Applicants feel that the claims were clear as written, to facilitate allowance of the claims without additional prosecution and cost to the Applicant, the language "of an" and "of a" has been removed from the claims. For additional clarity, the language "wherein the outer layer comprise" and "based upon the total weight of the outer layer" has been added to Claims 1, 16, and 24. Based upon the remarks set forth in the Amendment G mailed December 17, 2003, as well as the discussion with the Examiner, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of the claims are hereby respectfully requested.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks (in combination with the remarks set forth in Amendment G) fully comply with the Final Rejection dated October 22, 2003 and the Advisory Action dated January 30, 2004, and that the claims herein are allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the case are

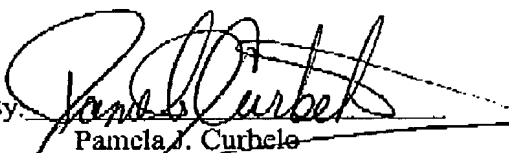
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respectfully requested. If the Examiner does not find the above remarks sufficient, the undersigned Attorney requests that the Examiner please call the undersigned to facilitate allowance of this case.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Cantor Colburn LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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